

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency



Bidder Queries, CFSA Responses

Re: CFSA Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care
CFSA-06-R-0007 **Request for Proposals**

Q1. The RFP states that there will be two contracts for MTFC- one for CFSA and one for DYRS. Does that mean we have to develop a separate response for CFSA and DYRS?

A1. No. **This requirement has been amended.** Each contractor will develop two teams; one team will serve 10 CFSA youth and the other will serve 10 DYRS youth.

Q2. Will there be two MTFC Teams for both CFSA and DYRS?

A2. Yes

Q3. If so, will one vendor be awarded the CFSA contract and another vendor the DYRS contract?

A3. No.

Q4. Can potential vendors apply to work with both CFSA and DYRS?

A4. Both vendors must work with both CFSA and DYRS populations.

Q5. Is the contract start date Dec 1st, 2006?

A5. No. The contract start date begins on the date that a fully executed contract is signed.

Q6. If so, when will the contracts be awarded?

A6. It is anticipated that the contracts will be awarded in July 2006.

Q7. Further clarify community partnerships and the reference in the RFP regarding having "agreements" signed. According to Gerard Bouwman, the MTFC model is NOT conducive to service partnerships. An example of a community partnership provided in the pre-bidders' conference was mentoring but the model talks about the role of the skills trainers in mentoring a youth. "Community partnerships are also encouraged and will be viewed favorably" (pg. 15)

A7. MTFC does not permit any external providers/therapists other than who is on their team. Given this requirement of the model, community providers will only be needed when discharge planning is being envisioned as reunification is achieved for the child. The model really encourages child to return to his/her permanent home. In this context, when services other than MTFC are needed, the MTFC provider should work with

CFSA's Office of Clinical Practice to coordinate community based services. Community partnerships are indeed encouraged for services and supports that are not provided through the MTFC teams such as: tutoring, recreational activities, job training, internships, etc.

Q8. Currently CFSA has a cost reimbursable structure in their foster care contracts, can this be used for CFSA youth?

A8. Yes.

Q9. If so, what will be the payment structure for DYRS? The DYRS contract will be cost reimbursement also.

A9. What if the court orders services outside of the MTFC program? DYRS and CFSA are briefing court official on the operational structure of this program to hopefully prevent court ordered services. Unfortunately, if the court orders a service that conflicts with those provided by the MTFC tem, a youth could not remain in or be referred to the program. DYRS will be using this program for youth committed to our care. Unlike CFSA, once a youth is committed, DYRS has the authority to place the youth in the most appropriate placement.

Q10. Will CFSA maintain family responsibility for any CFSA youth?

A10. MTFC is an up to nine month specialized foster care model that works with youth whose permanency plan is reunification and the team works with the child's permanent family to support the child's placement in a permanent home. Given these requirements, family responsibility must rest with the primary case manager/social worker who is supporting the permanency plan through treatment in the MTFC model.

Q11. Will a CFSA case worker remain involved while the youth is placed in MTFC?

A11. No

Q12. The RFP discussing plans for diversified funding streams for MTFC in the future including Medicaid and MHRS. Are CFSA and DYRS committed to paying the consulting and training costs to maintain this MTFC model in option years 2-5? Neither the Medicaid nor DC MHRS fee for service systems are equipped to absorb these costs.

A12. Yes

Q13. Clarify the total amount of youth one vendor will be expected to treat in a year because the RFP provides conflicting information on this number. If the thought is that not all youth will remain in the program past 6 months or will prematurely drop out, and the total amount of youth served in a year is based on this, how will this number be adjusted if the lengths of stay goes the maximum of 9 for a majority of the youth (especially if there are contractual milestones for the vendor to meet).

A13. When operating a full capacity, it is anticipated that the contractor will serve at least 25 youth annually adjusting for varying lengths of stay. During the base year it is anticipated that 15-17 youth will be served adjusted for a start-up period and varying lengths of stay.

Q14. Does the Program Supervisor position require a license? How about the individual and family therapy positions?

A14. The MTFC model does not require licensed staff; however, CFSA and DYRS will require that a licensed professional occupy the Program Supervisor position/s.

Q15. Does a program have to meet all milestones in each quarter before getting paid?

A15. Yes

Q16. Is the price per unit based on census or program capacity?

A16. Capacity.

Q17. What is the plan for long term sustainability of this service – specifically in regard to funding and expansion? Will Medicaid funds be utilized or are there other funding streams being identified to maintain this program in the District?

A17. CFSA and DYRS will utilize multiple funding streams that do not rely exclusively on Medicaid. CFSA and DYRS intend to utilize a combination of Title IVE, foundation, federal and local District dollars to sustain the program and cover the non-Medicaid cost of the program.

Q18. Regarding the issue of needing to be a licensed Child Placing Agency – based on what Gerry Bouwman stated in his presentation, this is a model where one agency should be responsible for the team (as opposed to the concept of 2 or more agencies partnering to provide the service) – is there an opportunity for providers who are not child placing agencies to become child placing agencies so that they may be eligible to provide this service? If so, what does that process entail?

A18. While one agency must be responsible for the team/s; this does not exclude an organization that is not a CPA from partnering with a CPA. The successful MTFC must have or arrange for the foster homes they identify to become licensed. In the District of Columbia licensure of foster care homes is only obtainable through CPA's or the DC CFSA. Partnering can occur in several ways, they include the following: 1) an organization that is not a CPA could partner with a CPA to access existing or arranging for the timely licensure of homes identified by the MTFC recruiter; 2) an organization that is not a CPA could partner with a CPA to provide training to the MTFC recruiter on the requirements for foster home licensure; and 3) an organization that is not a CPA could partner with a CPA to "lease" an MTFC recruiter from a CPA, who meets MTFC qualifications.

Q19. Can you please provide the contact information for the presenter of the model at the bidder's conference? There were no more available handouts.

A19. Gerard Bouwman
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Eugene, Oregon 97401
541.343.2388

Q20. Will the questions from prospective bidders and the Bidder's Conference be placed on the website?

A20. Yes

Q21. What is the approximate turnaround time?

A21. The goal is to post responses within 24 hours; however, more complicated questions may require more time.

Q22. Foster Care regulations in DC require a potential foster parent(s) to be “financially self sufficient” outside of the foster care role. With the intensive nature of the MTFC model, this will have an impact on foster parent recruitment is outside employment possible?

A22. Yes, many of the MTFC foster care families work outside the home.

Q23. The RFP references an Attachment A that lists all of CFSA's Child Placing Agencies (CPA's). I am unable to locate that document on the website. Can you please direct me to the appropriate area to locate this attachment?

A23. Attachment A is now posted on the CFSA website. www.cfsa.dc.gov.